

KIRKHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

KIRKHAM URBAN DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1907.

BY

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Medical Officer of Health to the Kirkham Urban Sanitary
Authority.

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KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1907.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my SECOND ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation and Vital Statistics of the Kirkham Urban District.

The nett deaths at all ages belonging the district were 60, giving a death-rate of 15 per 1,000. This is the least death-rate we have had for the last 7 years, and is one below the average per 1,000 for the last 10 years. This is quite satisfactory and may be partly explained by the fact that we have not been troubled by so many Zymotic Diseases, as reference to the tables on this matter will show.

The only sign of the possibility of any serious breakout of infectious diseases happened during June, when several cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occurred close together. At this

time, being a little alarmed, I took it upon myself (with the advice of your late Inspector, Mr. Joseph Fletcher) to get the Council registered as a member of the "Clinical Research Association," London, and to send up to the association samples of milk from suspected quarters to be examined, both bacteriologically and microscopically, for Diphtheria and Tuberculosis. The examinations however proved that the milk supply was *not* the source of infection and was in every way good.

The Council, I may say, approved of the action taken, and is now registered as a member of the "Clinical Research Association," which means that any samples of milk, food, water, &c., can be sent to the association and will be analysed at a much reduced cost as compared with the fees charged by a private analytical chemist; and I may mention here that the Council will be well advised if they have occasional samples of milk and other foods sent for analysis to the association mentioned. The cost is little, and it is by this means, and this means only, that the purity of the food and drink of the inhabitants can be guaranteed.

Although there were signs of the epidemic of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever spreading in June as mentioned, it did not do so, consequently there has not been any occasion to close the schools or interfere with them in any way.

With regard to the general health of the town it cannot but be described as satisfactory; but I must agree with your late M.O.H. (and as mentioned in my last Report) that, as a rule, many of the houses are below the requirements of modern times with regard to air-space and over-crowding, and also that the National Schools are not in the condition they ought to be. With better "housing of the working classes" the district should be one of the healthiest, as it has many natural advantages.

The birth-rate of 27 per 1,000 is hardly satisfactory, being as a matter of fact one below the average for the last 10 years; at the same time it will bear comparison with most other districts of a similar nature.

“SPOTTED FEVER” or “Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.”—As I mentioned in my last Report, the Local Government Board sent a circular in order that any suspicious cases might be noted. None however have occurred in or near the district so far as I am aware.

SMALL-POX.—There has not been any reported for the last four years ; the last being in 1903.

DIPHTHERIA.—There have not been any deaths. Seven cases been notified and of these five were removed to hospital and two isolated and treated at home. With regard to the sources of infection cannot say have been able to discover them only that in two cases the disease was brought in from a neighbouring township. The cases were mostly of a mild nature as seen from there not being any deaths ; whereas it used to be one of the most fatal diseases before the antitoxum treatment came in vogue.

ERYSIPELAS.—One case only and treated at home.

SCARLET FEVER.—There have been only six cases this year as compared with 33 last year ; and none of them been of a malignant type. Three were removed to hospital and three isolated at home. Not any deaths.

TYPHUS FEVER.—Not any cases and have not been for more than 10 years past, probably on account of improved sanitation.

ENTERIC FEVER.—There has been only one case, which is a distinct improvement on the past two years. Treated at hospital and recovered.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case only, which resulted in death. With this exception it will be noticed that there have not been any deaths from Zymotic Diseases either in the hospital or at home, which is most satisfactory.

Table showing Diseases Notified during past 10 years.

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	Total
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever ..	..	2	1	1	56	1	3	43	33	6	146
Diphtheria .....	..	1	1	..	2	1	..	2	4	7	18
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Membranous											
Croup	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Typhoid Fever..	8	2	3	1	1	1	1	6	5	1	29
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas.....	..	1	1	..	..	1	4	1	4	1	13
Puerperal Fever.	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	4
	10	7	7	3	61	5	8	52	46	16	215

KIRKHAM, acreage 857, is both hilly and sandy, affording good facilities for drainage, and an abundant supply of fresh air, which is nature's finest disinfectant.

POPULATION at the last census was 3,693, and the estimated population for 1907 is 3,788.

WATER, as supplied by the Fylde Water Board, cannot be excelled in Great Britain. The supply is ample, and the quality good.

MILK.—The supply is good; partly from resident cow-keepers and partly from neighbouring farmers. The supply and distribution of milk is one of the greatest and most important matters affecting the health of any given district; more especially with regard to the Infantile Death-rate. For, as you will no doubt be aware, more than one large authority supplies *Sterilised Milk* for infants to all those who choose to apply for it, which method of procedure has, I believe, reduced the Infantile Mortality of those districts very appreciably. Whilst this Authority could not go to such expense, &c., and seeing that the Act relating to cow-sheds has been adopted in a modified form, leaving the Authority little or no power over those already existing, yet, at the same time, it can be seen to that the milk supplied is of good quality and free from disease, more especially Tubercular Disease. The existing cow-sheds are kept clean and well looked after as far as I can see, but that does not prevent a diseased cow being on the premises. This matter of

a pure and good milk supply is next only in importance to a good water supply, and I should advise that occasional samples be taken (and bacteriologically examined) from the various dealers. The point of view being, of course, that such action will help (if it be ever so little) to reduce the terrible death-rate we have in the country from Consumption (Phthisis or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) and other Tubercular Diseases.

FOOD.—There have not been any complaints, nor has any been condemned ; the only action taken being that myself and your late Inspector ordered a fish hawker (from Preston) out of the town for hawking fish not fit for consumption.

SEWAGE.—The system satisfactory. Runs to settling tanks at Freckleton in conjunction with that from Wesham, and then into the River Ribble.

SCAVENGING is satisfactorily carried out under the supervision of your Inspector.

NIGHTSOIL.—My remarks in last year's Report can only be repeated, viz., that the method of disposing of it by "tipping" is very unsatisfactory and the more so as it is on the hands of a contractor. If a "destructor" cannot be supplied, a "tip" could be provided and the work carried out under the immediate supervision of the Inspector at, I should think, a less expense. There has not been practically any change as regards privies and ash-pits ; both these and the condition of *back yards*, &c., *should* have the *greatest attention* if the health of the town is to be kept as good as it is.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, three in number, have been regularly visited and found satisfactory. They are kept well limewashed and are well supplied with water, so that they are constantly cleansed. All refuse is immediately removed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—One a rag and bone store ; the other tripe boiling. Visited regularly, but no complaints.

LODGING-HOUSES.—There are two registered ; they have been frequently visited and found clean and well conducted, and no overcrowding ; they have not been the source of any trouble.

FACTORIES.—These are under the supervision of the Government Factory Inspector.

WORKSHOPS.—The registered ones are quite satisfactory. Cloggers, 2 ; Tailors, 3 ; Dressmakers, 9 ; Food—Bakers and Confectioners, 5 ; Building Trade—Joiners, 5 ; Plumbers and Painters, 3.

BAKEHOUSES are five in number. They have been regularly inspected and found in very good condition ; they are large, clean and well ventilated. There are none under ground.

VITAL STATISTICS.

MARRIAGES.—The following were solemnized : Parish Church 33, Roman Catholic 10, Congregational Church 5, Wesleyan Chapel 1, Registrar's Office 108 ; total, 157.

BIRTHS.—104 were registered in the district, being 4 less than in 1906, giving a birth-rate of 27. There were 53 boys and 51 girls. There were 5 boys and 1 girl, illegitimate, born in the Workhouse, and 2 boys and 5 girls outside, making a total of 13 illegitimate births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—17 deaths took place under one year, but of these 4 were in the Workhouse and from other districts, being a rate of 163 out of every 1,000 children born. For further particulars see newly added Table V. The Infantile Mortality is still rather high and is a good argument for the new "Notification of Births Act" being put into force in the district.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE was 0·52. This rate is, of course, quite satisfactory. There have not been any deaths in the Infectious Hospital from the district during the year.

Table shewing Deaths per Quarter for past 10 years.

Year	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
1898	...	14	...	14	...	13	...	16
1899	...	11	...	11	...	12	...	16
1900	...	22	...	25	...	14	...	11
1901	...	11	...	15	...	18	...	16
1902	...	19	...	19	...	13	...	12
1903	...	16	...	16	...	16	...	11
1904	...	23	...	10	...	19	...	14
1905	...	16	...	17	...	22	...	20
1906	...	20	...	18	...	22	...	20
1907	...	25	...	29	...	7	...	16

Table shewing Birth, Death, Zymotic and Infantile Death-rate for past 10 years.

Year	Birth-rate		Death-rate		Zymotic Death-rate		Infantile Death-rate	
1898	...	29·0	...	16·0	..	·9	...	114
1899	...	23·5	...	14·0	...	·4	...	112
1900	...	29·0	...	18·0	...	1·4	...	138
1901	...	30·0	...	18·0	...	·1	...	192
1902	...	30·0	...	18·4	...	2·4	...	166
1903	...	31·0	...	17·0	...	·8	...	76
1904	...	26·1	...	17·7	...	·5	...	103
1905	...	26·7	...	20·0	...	3·7	...	180
1906	...	28·0	...	16·0	...	2·1	...	138
1907	...	27·4	...	16·0	...	0·52	...	163

FYLDE UNION WORKHOUSE.—Six births took place in the house ; 5 boys and 1 girl, illegitimate.

There was a total of 24 deaths in the institution belonging to following districts, viz.:—Blackpool 11, Fleetwood 2, St. Annes-on-the-Sea 1, Poulton 3, Wesham 2, Freckleton 1, Kirkham 4 ; total, 24. Two Kirkham residents died in the Workhouse since its removal to Wesham, and one died at the Lancaster County Lunatic Asylum during the year.

MOSS SIDE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.—In this Hospital there are 31 beds and cots set apart for Scarlet Fever cases and 12 for Typhoid and Diphtheritic cases. There are not any separate wards or beds set apart for different districts.

Finally, I may say, gentlemen, that the Report on the whole for the year is a good one; the death-rate being *less* than the average for the last ten years, and the town has been very free from Infectious Diseases.

I am,

Yours obediently,

BENJ. E. JONES.

“*The Apiary*,”

Freckleton, nr. Kirkham,

February 29th, 1908.



KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Summary of Sanitary Work done, and Report, for the year ending December 31st, 1907.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Number of Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Notices given by Inspector	...	...	...	...	3
Notices to limewash and cleanse	...	...	...	...	1
Drains opened out, cleansed, and defects made good...	...	...	...	...	0
Slopstone pipes disconnected from drains and made to discharge over gullies	...	...	...	...	0
Privies improved and raised	...	...	...	...	3
Privies converted into water-closets	...	...	...	...	4
Filthy backyards cleansed under notice	...	...	...	...	0
Nuisances from overcrowding	0

EMPTYING OF ASH-PITS.

Closets and ash-pits emptied and disinfected	461
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SCAVENGING.

Loads of street sweepings removed	420
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BAKEHOUSES.

Inspected regularly. No complaints.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Prosecuted for not being registered	0
Notices to limewash	...	...	...	0
Number registered	..	...	...	2
Inspected at different times. Not overcrowded.				

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Kept clean and well limewashed. Offal and refuse removed at once.

DAIRIES', COW-SHEDS' AND MILK-SHOPS' ORDER.

Inspected regularly. Notice to limewash.

HERBERT ROYLES,
Inspector.

(1.) *VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1907 and previous years.*

YEAR	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT					Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District			Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District			NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
	Population estimated to middle of each year	Rate*		Under One Year of age		At all Ages			9	10	11	12	13	Rate*	Number	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
1897.....	4,085	123	30	18	153	100	24	41	37	..	63	12	12			
1898.....	4,094	122	29	44	114	92	22	37	26	..	66	16	16			
1899.....	4,125	107	23	12	112	92	22	41	32	..	60	14	14			
1900.....	4,176	123	29	17	138	111	26	39	34	..	77	18	18			
1901.....	3,693	114	30	32	182	68	16	34	28	..	66	18	18			
1902.....	3,693	114	30	15	131	96	25	34	29	..	67	18	18			
1903.....	3,693	118	31	9	76	103	27	43	37	..	66	17	17			
1904.....	3,711	97	26	10	103	100	26	46	34	..	66	17	17			
1905.....	3,736	100	26	18	180	115	30	47	40	..	75	20	20			
1906.....	3,764	108	28	15	138	80	21	28	22	..	61	16	16			
Averages for years 1897-1906 }	3,877	112	28	19	132	95	23	39	31	..	66	16	16			
1907.....	3,788	104	27	17	163	77	20	24	20	3	60	15	15			

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
 Total population at all ages..... 3,693 }
 Number of inhabited houses 784 } At Census of 1901.
 Average number of persons per house .. 4 }
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)..... 857
 Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Fylde Union Workhouse, Kirkham.
 Institution outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Fylde Joint Hospital Committee's Hospital at Moss Side.

(III.) CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						No. of CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM URBAN DISTRICT
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65		65 and upwards
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	7	2	4	..	1	..	5
Membranous Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Scarlet Fever	6	2	4	..	..	..	3
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	1
Relapsing Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS.....	16	4	8	2	2	..	9

Isolation Hospital, Moss Side, Lytham. Elswick for Small-pox.

(IV.) CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH
during year 1907.

Causes of Death 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belong- ing to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District					Total Deaths whether of Residents or non "Residents" in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and upwards 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Continued	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Epidemic Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea.....	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis, Pulm. Tuberculosis	7	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Tubercular Diseases..	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	5	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	8	2	1	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pleurisy .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal Diseases.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Accidents	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicides .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Debility .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases of Kidneys.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	19	5	3	2	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	13
All causes.....	60	13	9	2	4	24	8	..	..	..	..	..	24

(V.) *INFANTILE MORTALITY*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month
COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES—					
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria : Croup
Whooping Cough
DIARRHOEAL DISEASES—					
Diarrhoea, all forms
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	1	..	1
WASTING DISEASES—					
Premature Birth
Congenital Defects
Injury at Birth
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2	..	1	..	3
TUBERCULOUS DISEASES—					
Tuberculous Meningitis
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions
Bronchitis
Laryngitis
Pneumonia
Suffocation, overlaying
Other Causes
	2	..	2	..	4

District of KIRKHAM URBAN. Population

Births in the year, 104.

during the year 1907.

and Months under One Year of Age.

1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
..
..
..
..
..
..
..
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
..
..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
..
..
..
..	1	..	..	..	2
..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	13

(estimated to middle of 1907) 3,788.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 60.

